

TROPICAL CYCLONE 01B

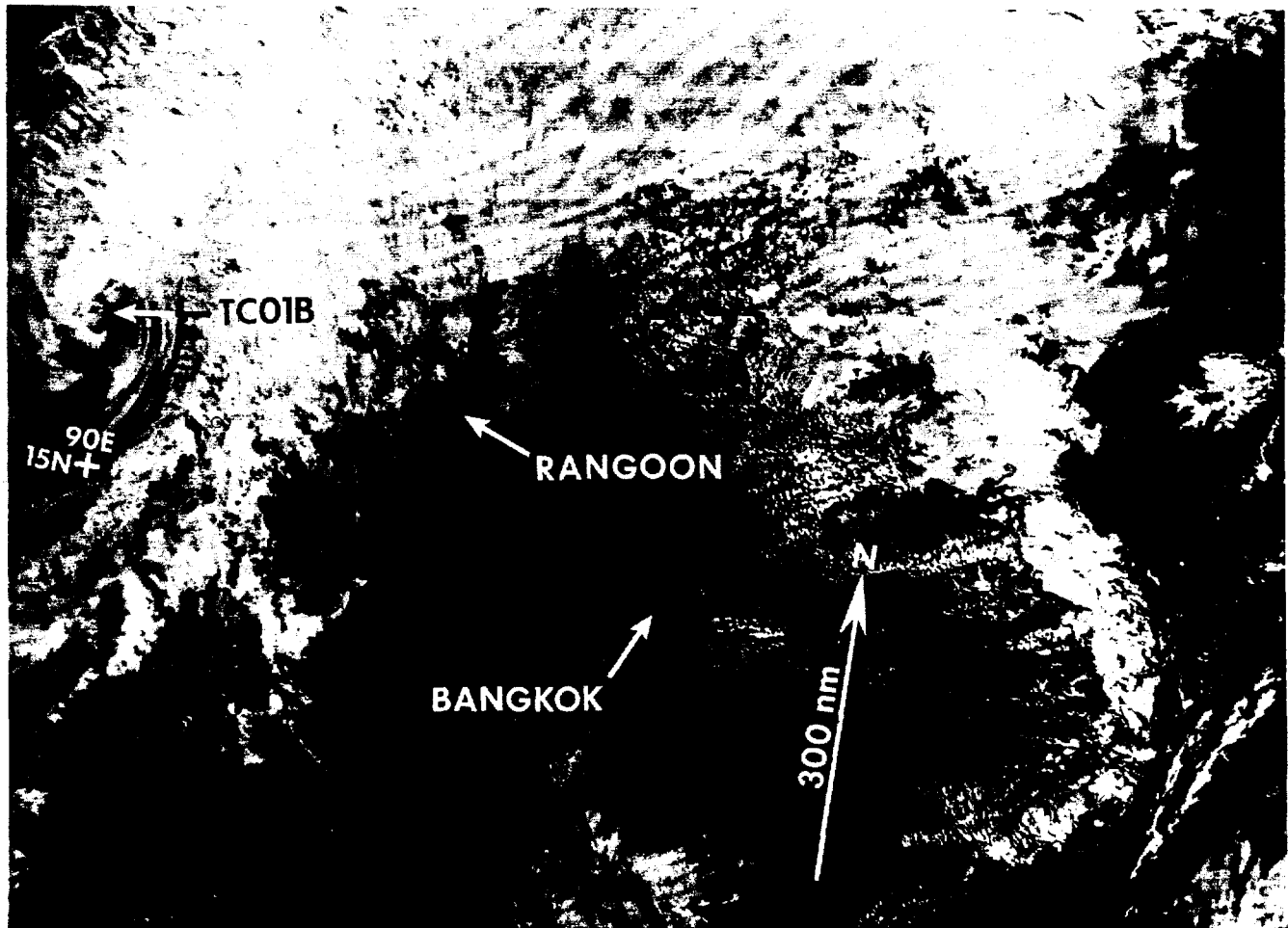


Figure 3-01B-1. Tropical Cyclone 01B was the first significant tropical cyclone to form in the Bay of Bengal during 1987. It was detected as an amorphous area of convection about 500 nm (926 km) east of Sri Lanka on the 29th of January and was noted on the 301800Z Significant Tropical Weather Advisory (ABIO PGTW). Satellite imagery at that time showed upper-level anticyclonically curved outflow over a weak, low-level circulation. Within the next 24-hours, the organization and amount of convection steadily increased. A Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert was issued at 311900Z. Satellite imagery showed convective banding had continued to increase, but sparse synoptic data showed no low surface pressures. At 0000Z on February 1st, the first warning was issued with the appearance of a central dense overcast and unrestricted outflow in all quadrants. The system then tracked steadily northeastward. The intensity peaked at 55 kt (28 m/sec) at 020600Z as the system began interaction with upper-level southwesterlies, which sent a long plume of cirrus northeastward across Burma. A partially exposed low-level circulation center became apparent at 030000Z, as increased vertical wind shear from the southwesterlies aloft stripped away the central cloudiness. Six hours later the low-level vortex was fully exposed (see above imagery). At 031200Z, JTWC issued the final warning on the 30 kt (15 m/sec) weakening tropical cyclone. The remnants of Tropical Cyclone 01B continued to track toward the northeast and dissipation occurred after it made landfall on February 4th over the northwest coast of Burma (030805Z February NOAA visual imagery).